

Court order drives GCHQ book abroad

By DAVID MILLWARD
A BOOK alleging corruption and lax security at GCHQ spy centres around the world is likely to be published abroad because of an injunction served on its author, Mr John "Jock" Kane.

Sir Michael Havers, Attorney-General, said yesterday that he took out the injunction because the book might have put at risk future operations of the centre.

Mr Kane, who worked for GCHQ for 32 years, was served with the injunction at his home in Barton-on-Sea, Hampshire, restraining him from publishing his book "GCHQ: The Negative Asset—the failure of a cover-up".

It was to be published by Robert Hale in June and drew on Mr Kane's experience as a radio supervisor at Cheltenham and its Hongkong outstation.

Sir Michael told Mr Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham N.W., yesterday in a written Commons reply that he had sought and obtained an injunction to restrain Mr Kane because publication of its contents would have been a breach of a duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown.

Sir Michael added that publication "might have seriously prejudiced and put at risk the conduct of future operations of GCHQ and the wider interests of the security of the United Kingdom and its allies".

American Interest

But Mr Kane's literary agent, Miss Julie Mulvaney, said: "The manuscript is with a major American publisher at the moment who is interested in the subject."

Mr Kane started his campaign against what he saw as laxity and corruption in GCHQ in 1973 and, frustrated by the response of his superiors to his allegations and the pressures put on him, he took early retirement just over two years ago. He now works as a milkman.

Mr Kane brought his allegations to the notice of several MPs including Mr Kenneth Warren, Conservative MP for Hastings.

Mr Warren referred the allegations to Mr Callaghan and his successor as Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher.

Dissatisfied by the results of an inquiry into his allegations Mr Kane went "public" in June 1980.

The ITV documentary "World In Action" carried his accusations of lax security at GCHQ's station at Little Sai Wan, Hongkong.

Mr Kane's book, which is still in manuscript form, elaborated on his previous allegations of corruption in Hongkong and claimed that lax control of photocopying enabled Geoffrey Prime to provide so much material for the Russians.